

On November 30, 1999, Examiner Nguyen and Supervisory Patent Examiner Hilten kindly granted the undersigned a personal interview to discuss the subject application. The Examiners' time in preparing for and conducting the interview is acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.

All pending claims are rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over "Bal-kleen, Gummituch-Waschanlage B 300 für Bogenoffsetmaschinen," BALDWIN ("Baldwin"). As amended, independent claims 1 and 25 recite:

a) obtaining operating parameters for cylinders of the printing press, from the central control system of the printing press, the operating parameters consisting of parameters effecting the degree of soiling of the cylinders to be cleaned and parameters effecting the result obtained by washing;

b) automatically selecting which cylinders of the printing press should be cleaned based on the operating parameters, by accessing the central control system of the printing press

Baldwin discloses a device for cleaning cylinders in a printing press. In Baldwin, to select which cylinders should be cleaned, an operator walks through the printing press, climbs stairs and observes each and every cylinder. Based on the operator's visual observation, the operator determines which cylinders should be cleaned. Baldwin does not obtain operating parameters from a central control system of a printing press. Baldwin does not automatically select which cylinders should be cleaned based on these operating parameters.

The present invention estimates how much and what kind of soil must be removed by accessing the central control system. Then, the present invention develops an additional

prognosis as to what kind of wash sequence would lead to the best cleaning result. (With respect to newspaper rotary presses, this not only achieves the best cleaning, but may also avoid a costly web break.) After the wash sequence is selected or generated, the wash device operates in accordance with this predetermined sequence.

The present invention is not simply an automation of the Baldwin manual process. In Baldwin, the cylinders must be manually observed. The prior art teaches how to automate this process. For example, German Utility Model Application G93 00 703.5 ("DE '703"), filed January 20, 1993 and European Patent Publication No. EP 0 570 676 ("EP '676") teach possible ways to automate the Baldwin process. DE '703 was initially submitted without a complete English language translation. Prior to the issuance of the June 14, 1999 first Office Action, a complete English language translation was submitted with a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 17, 1999. The English language translation was apparently not matched with the Patent Office file until after issuance of the June 14, 1999 Office Action. Enclosed is an additional copy of the English language translation for the Examiners' reference.

As mentioned above, both DE '703 and EP '676 teach how to automate a manual process. DE '703 is a Baldwin reference written after the Baldwin brochure (DE '703 was filed on January 20, 1993, and the Baldwin brochure was published in April, 1990). To automate the manual process, DE '703 teaches that sensors should be placed at each cylinder. The sensors directly detect the degree of soiling and act as the eyes of the operator. When the sensor detects that a cylinder is dirty, the cylinder is cleaned. EP '676 is similar in its use of

sensors, cylinder rotation speed in this case. DE '703 and EP '676 show the obvious way to automate a manual process: use a machine to directly detect that which was previously observed manually.

As the cleaning operation in DE '703 proceeds, the wash device for that cylinder is controlled based on the degree of soiling, as detected by the sensor. This is a closed controlled loop. As mentioned above, in the present invention, after the wash sequence is selected or generated, the wash device is operated in accordance with this predetermined sequence. This is quite different from controlling one general wash sequence in real time depending on sensor signals in a control loop.

The present invention does not require that sensors be installed and maintained for each cylinder. The present invention determines when to clean and how to clean based on operating parameters obtained from the central control system of the printing press. The claims have been amended to further define the operating parameters as parameters effecting the degree of soiling of the cylinders to be cleaned and parameters effecting the result obtained by washing. The present invention uses parameters effecting the degree of soiling to *deduce* the degree of soiling. The degree of soiling is not directly determined. With the claim amendments, the term "operating parameters" cannot be interpreted to read on the degree of soiling itself.

To realize the non-obviousness of the present invention, it is helpful to look at the problems encountered and the inventive steps involved to solve the problems. To achieve the present invention one having ordinary skill in the art must find the above discussed non-obvious way to predict or estimate the degree of soiling without getting the data directly. He

must have the idea to obtain the data needed for this estimation from the central control system of the printing press. Parallel to this, he must take into consideration the main parameters effecting the result obtained by washing (perhaps the direction of rotation or whether the cylinder during washing contacts the material to be printed). He must also have the idea to obtain these parameters from the central control system of the printing press. Then, the person having ordinary skill in the art must determine the wash sequence that would probably be best fitted considering the parameters effecting the degree of soiling obtained from printing and the parameters effecting the result obtained from washing. Furthermore, he must operate the wash devices in accordance with this predetermination, without any sensor or control loop. And finally, the above steps must be performed fully automatically.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claimed invention would not have been obvious. It is respectfully requested that the obviousness rejection be withdrawn.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that affect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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